

NEWS RELEASE

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Joshua B. Epel, Chairman Pamela J. Patton, Commissioner Glenn A. Vaad, Commissioner

PUC schedules public comment hearing on proposed Xcel Energy electric rate increase

DENVER — The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC), a division of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), will take public comment on Thursday, Nov. 20, on a proposal by Xcel Energy to increase its electric rates by a net \$137.7 million annually.

The public hearing will begin at 5 p.m. and continue to no later than 7 p.m. in Hearing Room A at the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, in Denver.

Xcel's proposal would increase monthly bills for residential customers, using an average of 632 kilowatt-hours (kwh) per month, by \$4.21, or 5.22 percent. Monthly bills for commercial customers, using 1,123 kwh per month, would rise by \$8.57, or 5.56 percent.

The company said the principal drivers of the proposed rate change include increased property tax expenses, depreciation expenses, plant investment, and investment in projects under construction. Specifically, the company seeks to recover the costs associated with about \$2 billion of new capital investment, including projects to implement its emissions reduction plan approved pursuant to the Clean Air-Clean Jobs Act (CACJA).

In addition to the changes in electric base rates, Xcel is proposing a CACJA rider, beginning Jan. 1, 2016, to recover additional CACJA costs not captured in the proposed base rate increase; along with an incentive mechanism where the company could be rewarded or penalized based on the annual performance of a specified group of generating units.

Customers who wish to submit written comments about the rate proposal may send them to the PUC at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO, 80202. Comments should be addressed to Docket No. 14AL-0660E. Customers may also submit email comments to dora_puc_complaints@state.co.us; or use the on-line comment form.

The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission. Visit www.dora.colorado.gov/puc for more information or call 303-894-7855/toll free 1-800-886-7675.